

Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association

"Ag Pilots: Protecting Our Land, Our Food, and Our Families"

Newsletter

November—December 2011

The President's Message

By Karl Holcomb

The Thanksgiving season has come and gone and we are right on the corner of the Christmas celebration. That means we're only a little over a month away from convention. There's plenty to do, but there has been much already done to get us to this point in the planning process. Everyone involved has worked together to plan for a great experience for the 2012 MAAA Convention. Bob and our Convention Planning Committee have an informative program lined up for recertification. The women have their brunch and meeting planned for Wednesday. The pilot members will have their meeting and program set, and we'll have a full length turbine engine class on Tuesday. Did I say lots to do? A new location, a brand new directory, new programming . . . it promises to be a great convention experience.

Well, if all goes the way it should, this will be my last article to write as your President. The time has passed quite quickly, but we've been very busy! There have been several changes implemented during the past two years, and I'm proud of where we are today. The MAAA is moving in a positive direction, and I know we will only grow larger and stronger in the years that follow. Our Nominating Committee has a strong slate of officers selected, and it makes me even more confident of our future. Our new team of officers will be ready to hit the ground running,

and we should expect great things in the years to follow.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President. I am very thankful to have been given this opportunity to give back to the MAAA. I have done my best to continue the positive direction Mark set us on a few years ago. I've had a chance to work with some great people and have had the opportunity to develop great friendships. To tell you the truth, I feel like I'm going away with more than I am leaving! Thank you once more for your support and your confidence in my leadership.

I would like to close with something that lays heavy on my heart. Members of our association sometimes refer to one another as being part of a "big family". We share a great camaraderie with one another, and we find that we can always count on each other for encouragement or support in anything that we do. I think it is part of what sets us apart from some other organizations. I learned a short time ago the one of our pilot members, Pat Kelly Brooks, has been diagnosed with cancer. His prognosis isn't good. I'm asking for everyone to please pray for Pat. Simply put, he needs a miracle and God is still in the business of miracles. Let's ask Him for that miracle . . . one for Pat.

The Golden Triangle By Bob Provine, Vice President

I thought by now all agricultural flying would be over, but as I walked out of my home this morning (November 11), I could hear a “cropduster” working. Even at Provine Helicopter Service we are presently spraying timber just north of Disneyworld and in South Carolina. The way I look at it, the Lord is giving us this opportunity, so let’s take advantage of this late season gift.

Speaking of the Lord, I just gave a stewardship talk at my church entitled “The Golden Triangle—Time, Talent and Tithes”. As I contemplate on what to write in this newsletter, I think of those three words and how they can be used in our industry, especially the MAAA.

Time and Talent. If you have noticed in the past year or so you are being more informed about the agricultural aviation industry and the part your association plays. One of the goals of your President and the other officers is to communicate and inform. I truly believe there is talent throughout our membership yet to be discovered. So, please come forward and offer suggestions, thoughts, and ideas that will make your association even better.

Tithes (giving back a portion). If you know people interested in the promotion of agricultural aviation who are not members of the MAAA, have them contact our Executive Director, Vicki Morgan, to learn how to become a member. Membership applications are also available on the MAAA website at www.msaaa.com.

As Christians need to meet together and work as a committed group, we as agricultural aviators need to do the same.

MAAA 2012 Convention

January 17-19, 2012

IP Casino Resort Spa

Biloxi, Mississippi

- **Register** by December 18, 2011 and save \$50 per person (pilots, operators, convention only attendees.) Registration forms are available at MAAA website at www.msaaa.com or by contacting Vicki Morgan at 662-455-0070.
- **Room reservations** should be made by December 18 to receive \$69.99 MAAA group rate (use Group Code S126020). Contact the IP at 1-888-946-2847 or on-line at www.ipbiloxi.com.
- **Silent Auction Fundraiser**—To donate items for auction, contact Glenn Holloway at 662-721-7931 or bring them to convention. Bidding begins at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday and ends at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday. Proceeds go to MAAA, so we need your support. All major credit cards will be accepted for auction.
- **25% Spa Discount**—MAAA attendees receive a discount on spa services.

Proposed Revisions to MAAA Constitution & Bylaws

At the MAAA Convention Annual Business Meeting on January 18, 2012, the following revisions will be voted on.

Constitution Revisions

1. Article 4: Section 2

Current: Pilot Associates. Any person holding a valid FAA Commercial Pilot's Certificate and is employed at least part-time as a bona fide Agricultural Pilot and who holds a current identification card issued by the Agricultural Aviation Board of Mississippi, is eligible to become a Pilot Associate of the Association.

Proposed Revision in red: Pilot Associates. Any person holding a valid FAA Commercial Pilot's Certificate and is employed at least part-time as a bona fide Agricultural Pilot and who holds a current **license issued by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry** is eligible to become a Pilot Associate of the Association.

2. Article 4: New Section 2

Proposed new membership: **AFFILIATED OPERATOR MEMBERSHIP: Any individual, whether a spouse, partner, stockholder or employee whose company is an Operator Member of the MAAA in good standing may qualify for membership as an Affiliated Operator Member.** (Existing sections shall be as follows upon passage of this addition: Section 3—Pilot Associates, Section 4—Charter Members, Section 5—Allied Industry Associates, Section 6—Honorary Associates, Section 7—Rights of Members)

Bylaw Revisions

1. Article 1: Section 6:

Proposed new Bylaw: **From and after the adoption of this section, there shall be a new class of membership to be called Affiliated Operator Member. The original membership dues for an Affiliated Operator Member shall be \$100.00. The annual membership dues from then on shall be equal to the annual amount set for the Pilot Membership dues. Any person who meets the qualifications as set forth by the Constitution may qualify as an AFFILIATED OPERATOR MEMBER with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto, with the exception of holding office or voting, in consideration of the satisfactory completion of the requirements of membership herein.**

2. Article 3: Section 1, Paragraph (E)

Proposed new Bylaw: **DIRECTORS: There shall be 12 Directors elected from among the Operator Members, four (4) from each of the three (3) geographical regions as prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Northern District shall consist of Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Coahoma, Desoto, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, and Yalobusha Counties. The Central District shall consist of Bolivar, Carroll, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Leflore, Lowndes, Monroe, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Sunflower, and Webster Counties. The Southern District shall consist of Mississippi counties located south of the Central District Counties. At the annual meeting six (6) Directors shall be elected to serve a two-year term of office.**

**Proposed Changes to MAAA
Constitution & Bylaws (continued)**

Terms of office of Board of Director Members shall be two (2) years, with two (2) members from each region being elected annually. Voting procedures are outlined fully for all Officers and Directors subsequently in these Bylaws. Directors may not succeed themselves.

3. Article 3: Section 1, Paragraph (H):

Proposed new Bylaw: **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND N.A.A.A. REPRESENTATIVE:** All officers and the Association’s Representative to the National Agricultural Aviation Association shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by the General Assembly on a state-wide basis. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee comprising seven (7) members with the Chairman selected at large and remaining six (6) members selected equally from the three (3) geographical regions. This committee shall be selected at least 120 days before the date of the Annual Meeting. It shall be their duty to bring forward, at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting, a slate of nominees for the above four (4) positions, of at least one qualified nominee for each Officer’s position and two (2) Director Nominees for each of the three (3) geographical regions. The Executive Director will be immediately notified of these selections and shall have printed ballots for each office, with spaces on each ballot to provide nominations from the floor.

1. Article 3: Section 2 (B)

ADD: (B) PROXY VOTING: Voting by proxy shall be valid for all purposes provided the person voting is a pilot member in good standing and is employed by the operator that has signed the proxy provided the operator is in good standing as well. Only one (1) proxy shall be submitted per voter per meeting. The signed proxy shall be filed with the MAAA Secretary prior to the meeting at which the proxy is to be used. Only proxy statements that are furnished by the MAAA shall be accepted. (Upon passage of this addendum, existing Article 3: Section 2—VOTING STRENGTH will become Article 3: Section 2 (A).



Safety Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2012
6:00 p.m.
Kimmel Aviation Insurance
442 Airport Road
Greenwood, MS

WMAAA News
By Brenda Carson, President

WMAAA Fall Meeting

The WMAAA Fall Meeting was held October 22nd at the Viking Cooking School in Greenwood, MS. We had a great turnout, with sixteen members in attendance. We enjoyed cooking and socializing while also taking care of WMAAA business. A good time was had by all!



2012 WMAAA Live Auction

Wednesday, January 18th

IP Casino Resort Spa

Awards Banquet 7:00 p.m.

The WMAAA Live Auction will be during the Awards Banquet again this year. We would like to thank everyone for their support year after year. The money raised during the live auction goes to educate the general public about the vital role Ag Pilots play in farming today. If anyone has an auction item idea or would like to donate an auction item, please contact Brenda Carson at (662) 571-6412 or by email at brendaables@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2012 MAAA Convention. Thanks again for your continued support.



Women of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association

2012 Convention Almost Here!
By Vicki Morgan, Executive Director

The harvest is complete, and we now look forward to Christmas and then the MAAA Convention in January! If you haven't sent in your registration and/or 2012 dues payment, remember to do so by December 18. We will, of course, accept both after that date, but there is an additional charge of \$50 per person for registrations received after December 18.

For those of you who want to pay your dues later, invoices will be sent in March of 2012.

I think you are going to be pleased with our site for the convention—the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, Mississippi. It is a beautiful resort with numerous restaurants, shopping and a great bar! The Exhibit Hall, meeting rooms and registration will be in an area designated just for MAAA. An informative, educational and enjoyable three days have been planned.

Highlights of the Convention include Miss Mississippi, Mary Margaret Roark, as the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet, the PAASS program, the WMAAA Brunch, and the addition of a Turbine Engine School on Tuesday, January 17, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration begins on Tuesday, January 17, at 8:00 a.m.

Remember that MAAA Convention attendees can receive a 25% discount on spa services, so make your appointments now (and tell your spouses about this).

Please contact me if you need any information about convention.

I know that Thanksgiving is over, but we are thankful every day of the year for our many blessings. My role as your Executive Director is one of the new blessings that I have received this year, and I thank you for this opportunity.

Karl and Casey Holcomb have also been blessings to me, and I am thankful for them. They have been my mentors, trainers, and co-workers the past few months. MAAA is fortunate to have a dedicated leader like Karl. Casey has worked tirelessly at his side for so many hours this year on the convention, on the MAAA Directory and helping me. Thanks also to Brenda Carson, WMAAA President, for her leadership and assistance; to Courtney Kimmel for her help with the website and convention planning; and to Bob Provine for taking the time to introduce me to members and educate me about the aerial applicator industry.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! See you in January at the Convention!!

MAAA Bi-Monthly Newsletter

MAAA can reduce postage expense by emailing the newsletter. If you received this newsletter in the mail, I do not have your email address. Please send it to me at vickimorgan@msaaa.com.

Vicki Morgan, Executive Director MAAA

1000 River Birch Cove

Greenwood, MS 38930

Office: 662-455-0070

Cell: 662-299-7836

Fax: 662-455-0070

Email: vickimorgan@msaaa.com

Website: www.msaaa.com